

by pacing individual birds with a motor ear along country roads. An opportunity of getting an estimate of the speed of the Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) was provided me in November, 1945, near Lake Grace. Our ear flushed two Bronzewings from the ground, to the right of the road. They both overtook us, though one rose before the other, and flew at first parallel with the ear. They then quickly swung across the road in front of the ear and disappeared into the bush. Our ear was doing 40 miles per hour.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

Spinebill Honeyeaters and *Dryandra nivea*.—In *The Emu*, vol. 27, 1928, p. 185, there is an interesting paper by O. H. Sargent entitled "Reactions Between Birds and Plants", in which he stresses the part played by birds in the pollination of many species of native flora. He infers that *Banksia* and related species are primarily bird-pollinated. Of the cup-like blossoms of *Dryandra nivea* he remarks: "The style-tips are directed inwards round the rim of the 'cup', so that a bird seeking the nectar (nauseously heavy-odoured), which pours from the blossoms on to the bottom of the 'cup', must needs rub every style-tip. Excellent as its pollination mechanism undoubtedly is, *Dryandra nivea* is a very 'shy' seeder. The reason why is quite unknown to the author . . ."

As no particular bird-pollinators are mentioned by Mr. Sargent for this plant, it may, therefore, be of interest to record that in the Coolup district where the plant is common I have frequently found the Western Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*) feeding with its head immersed in its cup-like blossoms. In his paper Sargent enumerates the following species in which the Spinebill has been seen feeding: *Anigozanthus manglesii*, *Banksia* spp., *Hardenbergia comptoniana*, fuchsia and "geranium".

—A. H. ROBINSON, Coolup.

Bob-tail Bite.—Some years ago while on a visit to the Narrogin district, I encountered a Bob-tail Lizard (*Trachysaurus rugosus*) and decided to take his photograph. My host, who was with me, secured the lizard in the approved manner, i.e., by seizing him behind the head with thumb and forefinger. I then made the mistake of taking the lizard from my friend in the same way, except that, for convenience I approached it from the head end instead of from the tail end. The Bob-tail promptly seized one of my disengaged fingers which came within range of his jaws and held on with remarkable tenacity. My friend, more concerned for my welfare than that of the unfortunate reptile, struck it several heavy blows with a stick, but finally had to lever its jaws apart in order to release me.

As the finger was somewhat lacerated, I took an early opportunity of bathing it with a solution of permanganate of potash. The bite was a little painful at first as the flesh had been torn at the base of the finger nail, but there were no complications.

No doubt lizard bites if neglected could cause more or less